THE BOOGER BOOK

By Donald Wetzel

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THE BOOGER BOOK

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Dedicated To

Written by Donald Wetzel

Amusingly illustrated by Martin Riskin

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People who pick their noses and dispose of the pickings on the undersides of the dinner table are not likely ever to see God.

Leo Tolstoy

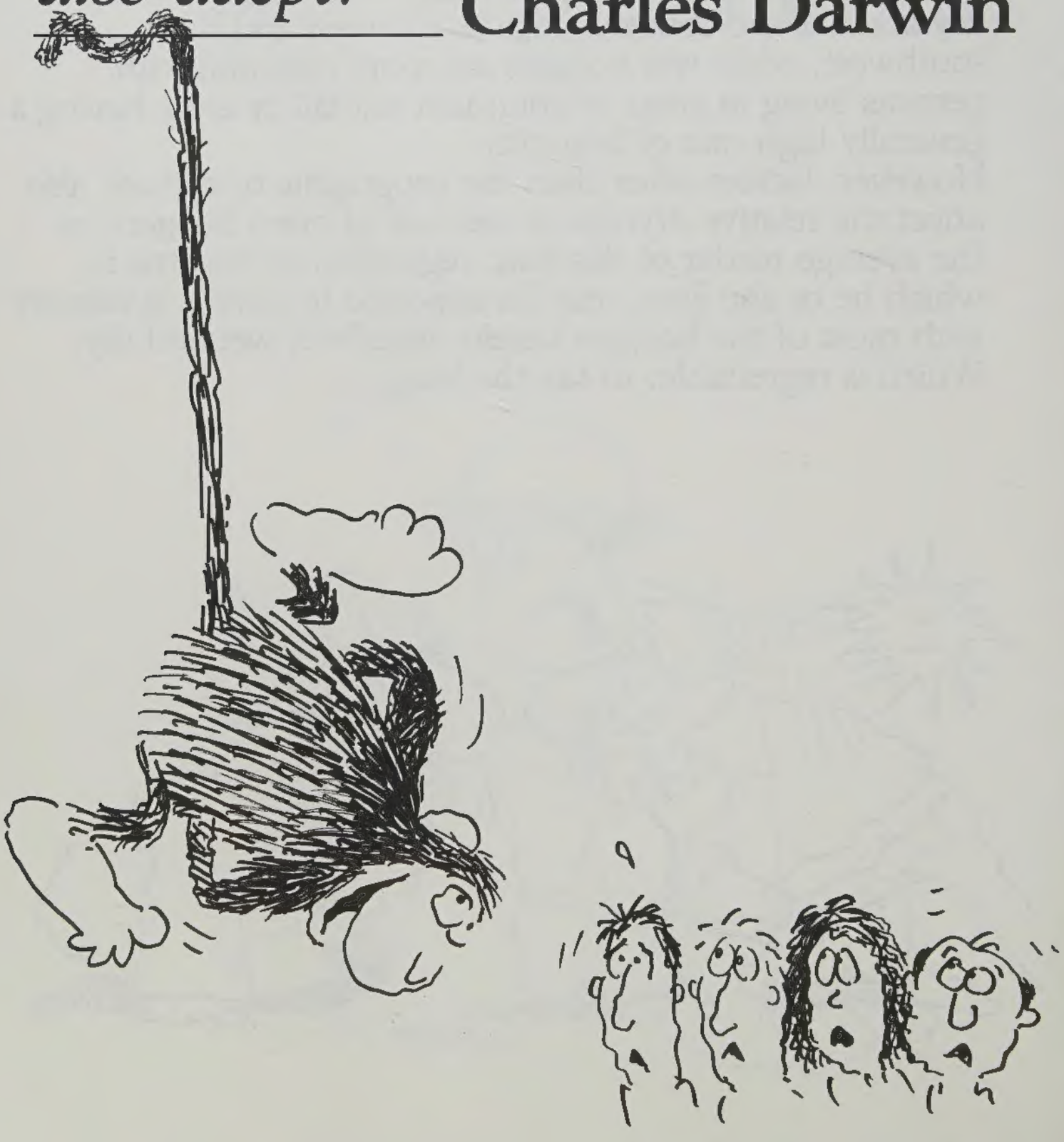
All boogers may be divided into two groups:

1. *Dry Boogers*
2. *Wet Boogers*

Dry boogers are more apt to occur with persons living in dry areas of the country, such as the west and the southwest, while wet boogers are more common with persons living in areas of abundant rainfall or areas having a generally high rate of humidity.
However, factors other than the geographic or climatic also affect the relative dryness or wetness of one's boogers, so the average reader of this text, regardless of the area in which he or she lives, may be expected to have a familiarity with most of the boogers herein described, wet and dry. Which is regrettable, to say the least.

Monkeys do not pick their noses. This is about the only disgusting personal human habit at which they are not also adept.

Charles Darwin



It might be noted here also that a booger in coastal Alabama, stuck under the edge of a chair or a bed, may still be wet to the touch as much as a month later, due to the god-awful humidity of the place.

There are those who would rather make a distinction between boogers as being either hard or soft, rather than as dry or wet, but this seems to me silly, as it is unlikely that one will encounter a booger that is both hard and wet, or one that is soft and dry. Either such booger would have to be looked upon as an anomaly. For the purpose of this work, we will restrict the division of boogers into the aforementioned two groups, wet or dry.

If you, a reader, should have boogers that fail to fall into either of these two broad categories, you probably are picking your nose too much anyhow. What you are getting most likely is scabs.

People who put their nose pickings on the pillow case are sick.

Sigmund Freud

DRY BOOGERS

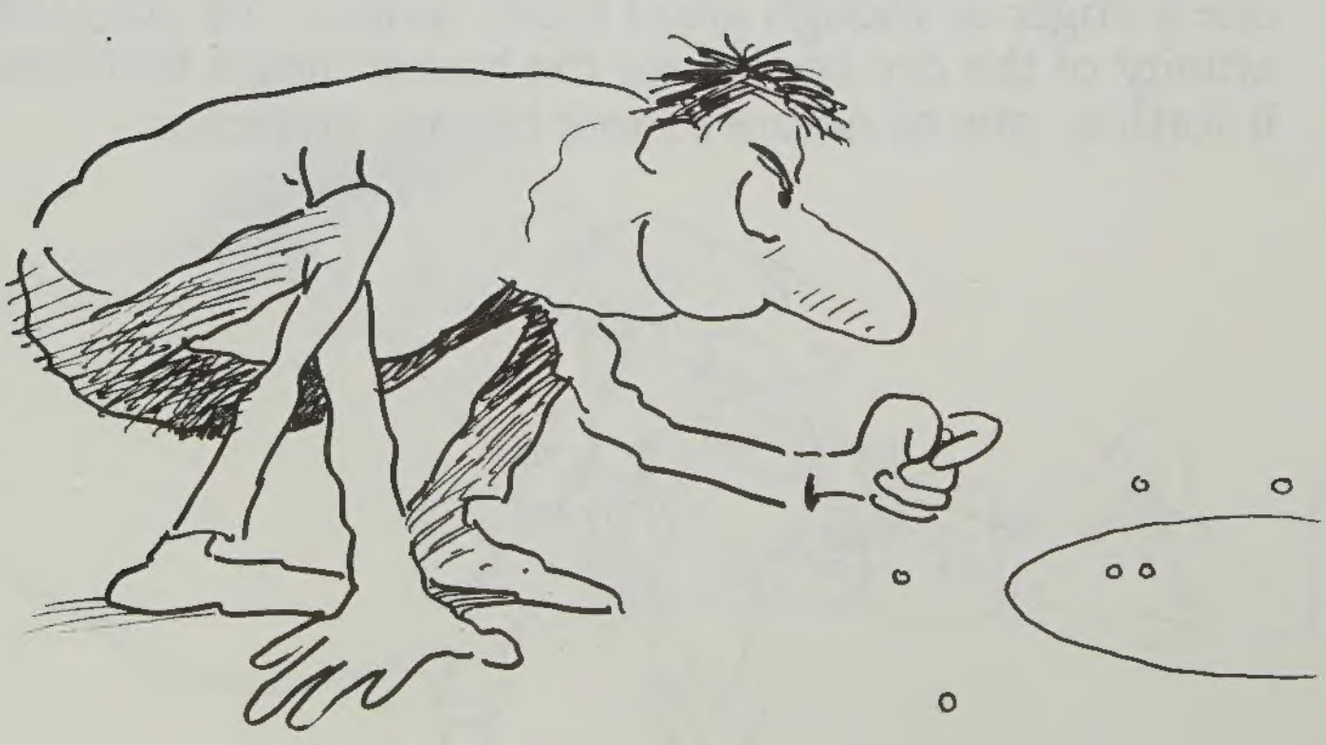
Speaking informally, it may be said that dry boogers, as a group, have less character than wet boogers. Other than for differences in size and color, one dry booger is very like another, a small round ball of dried mucus (". . . that corruption that issueth from the nose" John Skot, 1530) not so soft as a ball of rubber cement nor as hard as a ball bearing, but rather having a texture and consistency similar to that of a day-old rat's turd.

If dropped to the floor, your average dry booger will neither bounce nor go splat. It may on rare occasions roll, but generally it will lay where it hit, as even the most dry and dead-seeming of boogers has a certain definite adhesive quality about it. As is well enough known, a booger seemingly as dead and dry as King Tut himself can stick to one's finger as though glued there. Indeed, the animal-like affinity of the dry booger for the human finger that fetched it forth is one of nature's more bizzare mysteries.

Types of Dry Boogers

THE MARBLE BOOGER

Perfectly round. It may on occasion issue forth from the nose in that condition, but more often it is the consequence of extreme manipulation on the part of the nose picker, due to nervousness, embarrassment or sick habit. This booger, if flipped onto a flat surface, will frequently roll a surprising distance.



THE BUCK SHOT BOOGER

A small booger noted for its exceptional heaviness in relation to its small size (as is true of certain stars) being a booger which, in any event, has achieved maximum density and will, occasionally, if flipped hard enough against a wall, be seen to shatter or explode, possibly leaving a dent where it hit. The Buck Shot Booger is found as described when first located by the nose picker, usually high up and well to the back of the nostril. It is often one of the more difficult boogers to dislodge. The serious nose picker, however, will view the successful withdrawal of a Buck Shot Booger as effort indeed well spent.

THE BLACK HOLE IN SPACE BOOGER

A booger of celestial – or it will sometimes seem – cosmic implications for the nose picker. This exceptionally large black booger, tending to the flat rather than the round, is withdrawn from the nostril with an audible crunching sound; one fears for a moment that portions of the septum may have accompanied it, if not some black mysterious stuff of the brain itself. The nose picker has no option but to view the Black Hole In Space Booger with undisguised awe. If dropped to the floor and left there, it will look very much like a large dark hole in the floor.

THE DRY HAIRY BOOGER

This is a booger, usually a black one and hard as cement, which has attached itself to a large hair in the nose and can only be removed by removing as well the hair to which it is attached, in every instance a sharply painful process. The offending hair, if large enough, can make this booger look a little like a bomb with a fuse, if one studies it for a bit.

THE SMOKEY BEAR BOOGER

Possibly the blackest of all boogers, this booger happens only to forest rangers, Indians and possibly bears, and only when the woods are burning. Indians are great forest fire fighters, and due to this alone it is probably fair to say that Indians – or at least some Indians – produce the blackest boogers known to human kind. These boogers are so dry they can be broken in two like a pretzel, although few people bother; they just throw them back in the fire.

THE PYGMY BOOGER

A booger always located well to the back of the nostril, where for long periods of time it resists equally either the most gentle and cautious or the most fiercely determined efforts at capture, until it often seems to the nose picker to be a booger both monstrous in size and of unparalleled cunning, only to be revealed when finally captured and withdrawn as being about the size of a cockroach dropping and about as interesting. This is always one of the more hollow victories for the nose picker.

Show me a man who picks his nose with his pinky, and I'll show you a man with a nose like a rabbit.

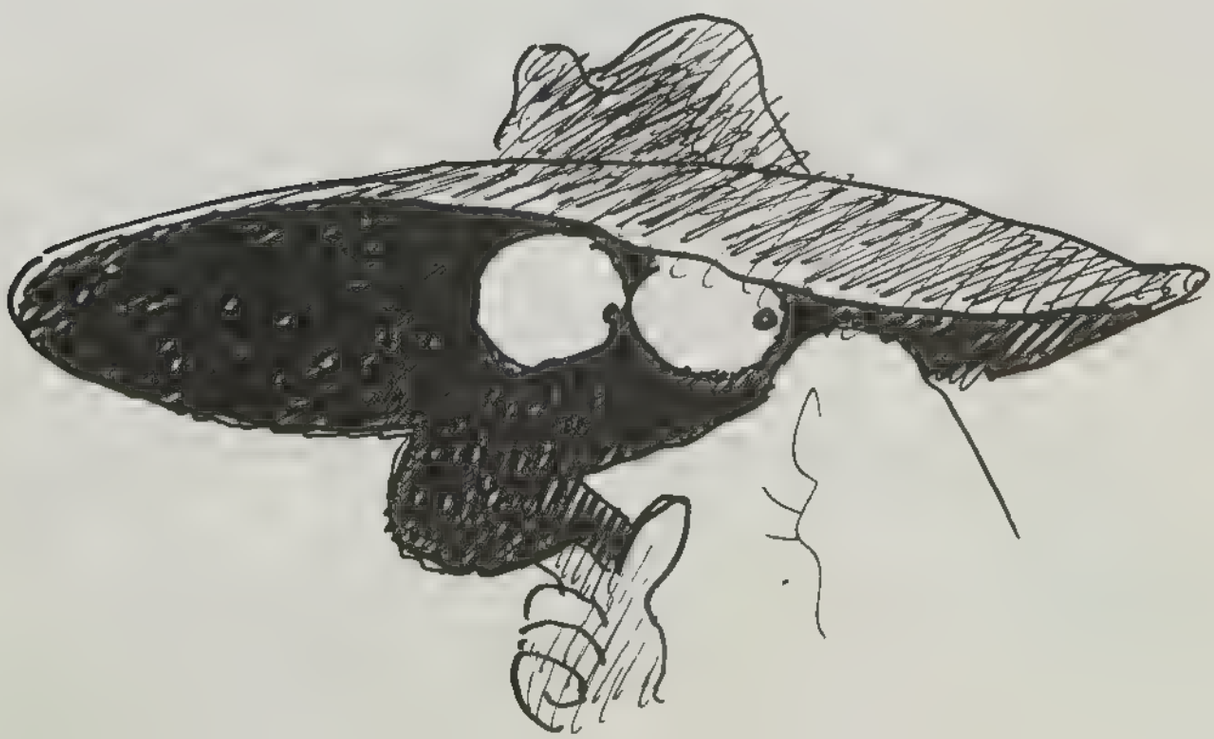
Oscar Wilde

THE PHANTOM BOOGER

The Phantom Booger, as the name would imply, is really not a booger at all. It exists only in the minds of certain deeply troubled and compulsive nose pickers, who insist, though their nose be as sore as boils and as barren as bird cages, that there lurks still a booger back up there somewhere. Dig for it they will, though it bring tears of pain to their eyes.

Such compulsive nose pickers in ceaseless pursuit of the Phantom Booger are, strangely enough, often people of some rank and position in life, not necessarily bums or weirdos at all. It is believed that Napoleon Bonaparte was such a one; the hand stuck within the waist, as shown in so many portraits, being the effort of a man of considerable character to control his nose picking obsession, at least while having his portrait done.

Since the Phantom Booger does not really exist, it could as easily have been included among the wet boogers, which is all right with me, if that's the way others feel about it.

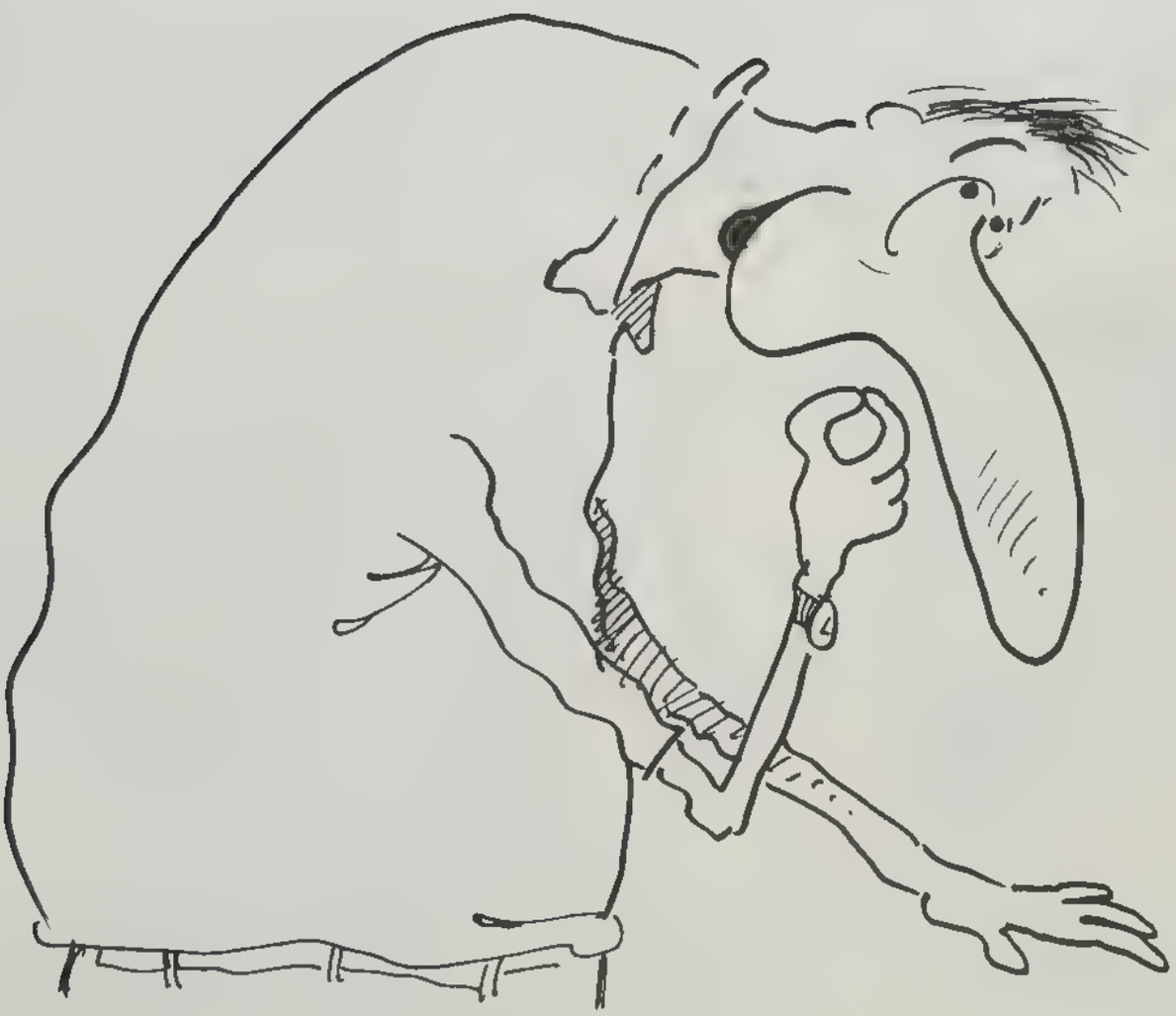


THE BASTARD BOOGER

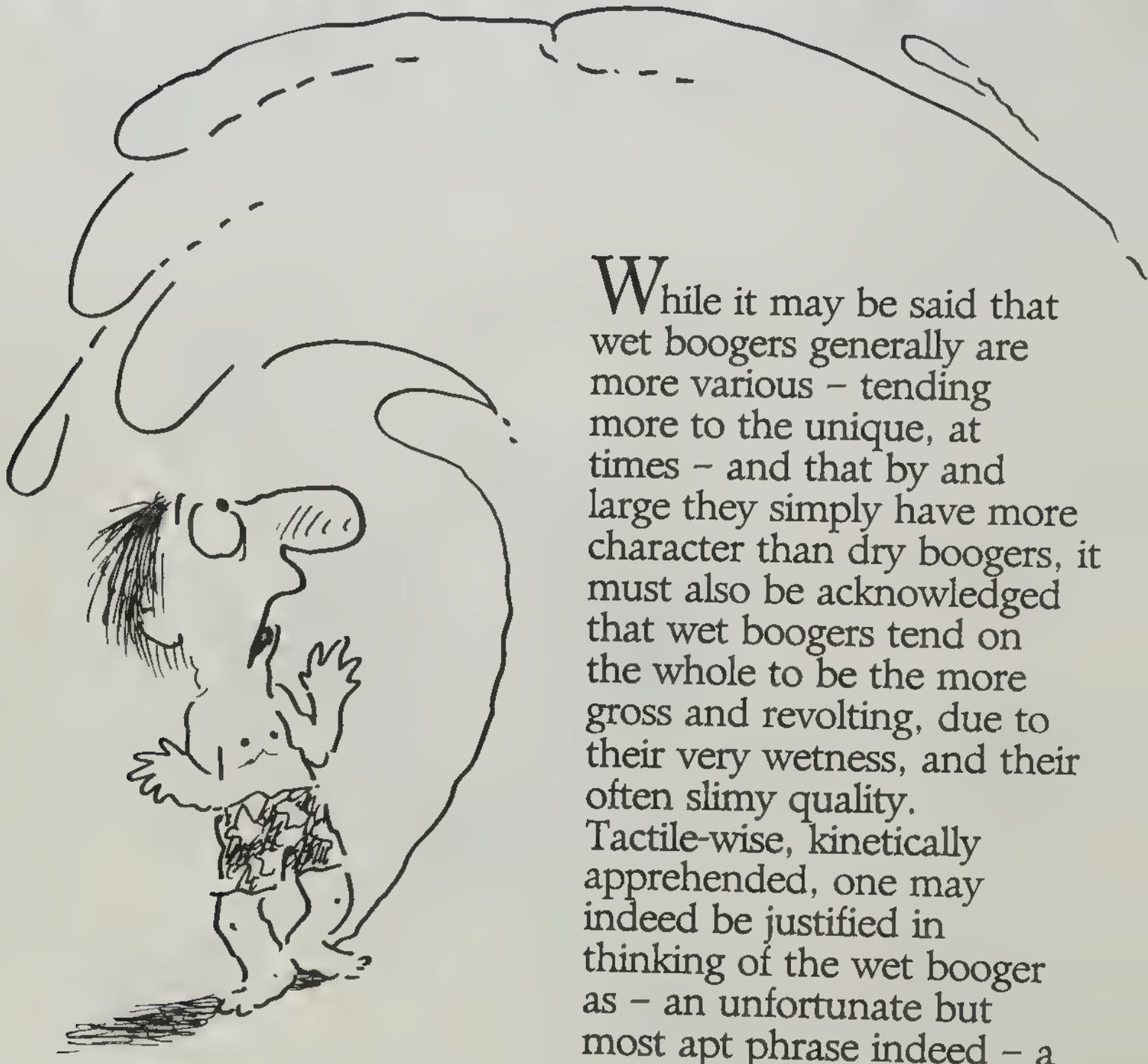
This especially dry booger gets its name from its characteristic inability to be rolled into a neat little booger-ball. It will not conform. Nothing can be done to make it behave like a legitimate booger. If it is drawn from the nostril in the shape of a pretzel or a wagon wheel or the map of Italy, it will keep that shape, no matter how industriously the nose picker may seek to reduce it into the usual neat discreetly disposable pill. It is simply too dry, too rigid, too old and brittle. It will break before it bends. Not a damn thing can be done with it. There is nothing for it but for the nose picker to name it bastard and fling it out into space the best way he can, where for all he knows it may come back to him like a yo-yo.

THE SHAPED FLAKE BOOGER

This thin booger takes the shape of the inside of the nasal cavity and is amusing to remove by gentle peeling, much as you scrape airplane glue off a finger. The larger flakes can induce a sort of satisfying tactile sensation especially if you can remove them all in one piece. The shaped flake Booger is common, does not lend itself to rolling and yet remains quite easy to dispose of.



WET BOOGERS

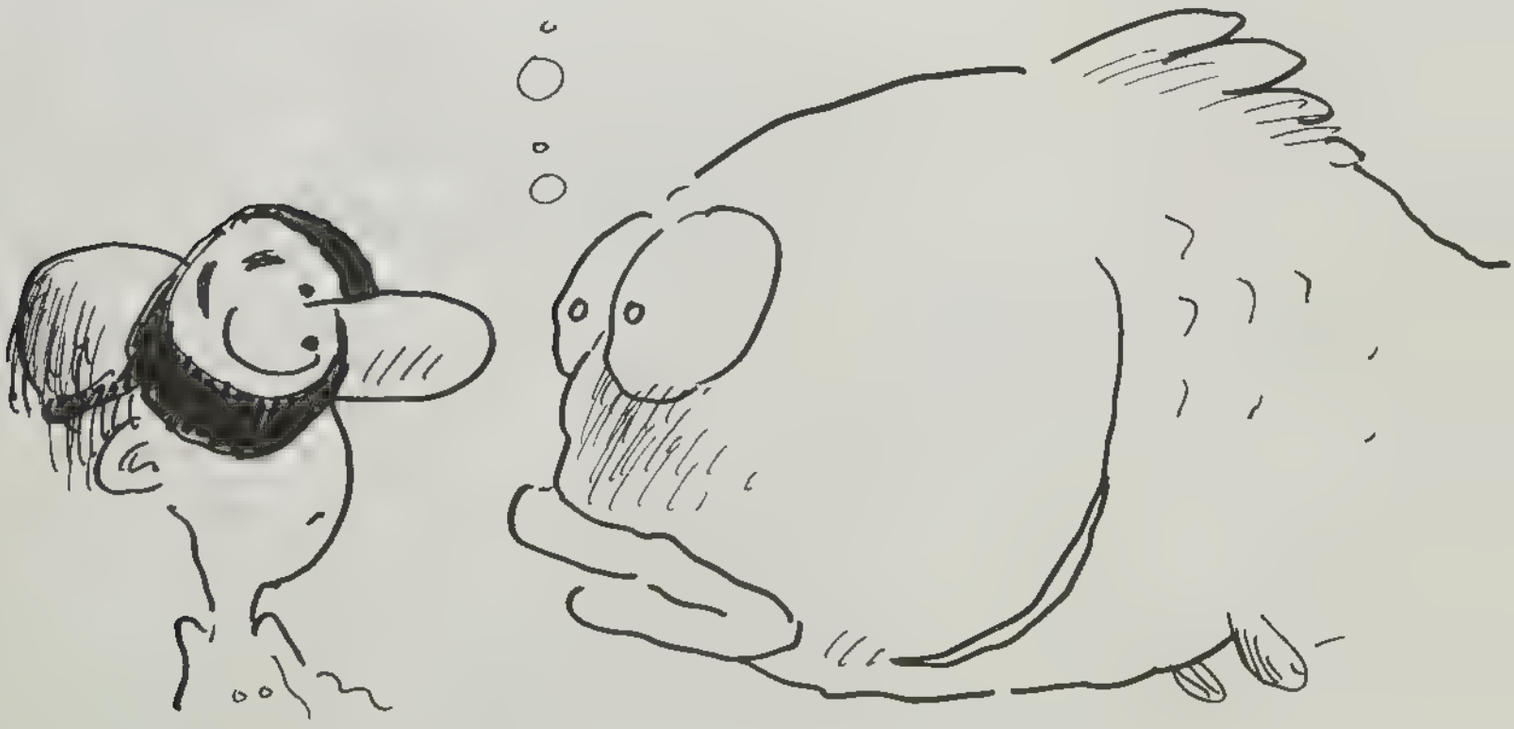


While it may be said that wet boogers generally are more various – tending more to the unique, at times – and that by and large they simply have more character than dry boogers, it must also be acknowledged that wet boogers tend on the whole to be the more gross and revolting, due to their very wetness, and their often slimy quality. Tactile-wise, kinetically apprehended, one may indeed be justified in thinking of the wet booger as – an unfortunate but most apt phrase indeed – a snot booger.

Types of Wet Boogers

THE FISH EYE BOOGER

The Fish Eye Booger, sometimes wrongly identified as the Oyster Booger (The Oyster Booger lacks the symmetry and heightened color of The Fish Eye Booger and in general is just more of a glob) is truly one of the more disgusting boogers of its type. This disgusting quality is true of most all wet boogers that appear to resemble bits, pieces or remnants of human or animal organs or viscera, such as snail heads, intestinal diverticulum, supperating pustules, chicken livers or the above-mentioned fish eye. The Fish Eye Booger has the cold blank look characteristic of the eye of a fish a long time out of the water. There is no question, as one looks at The Fish Eye Booger, but that it is dead as a doornail, and not about to blink.

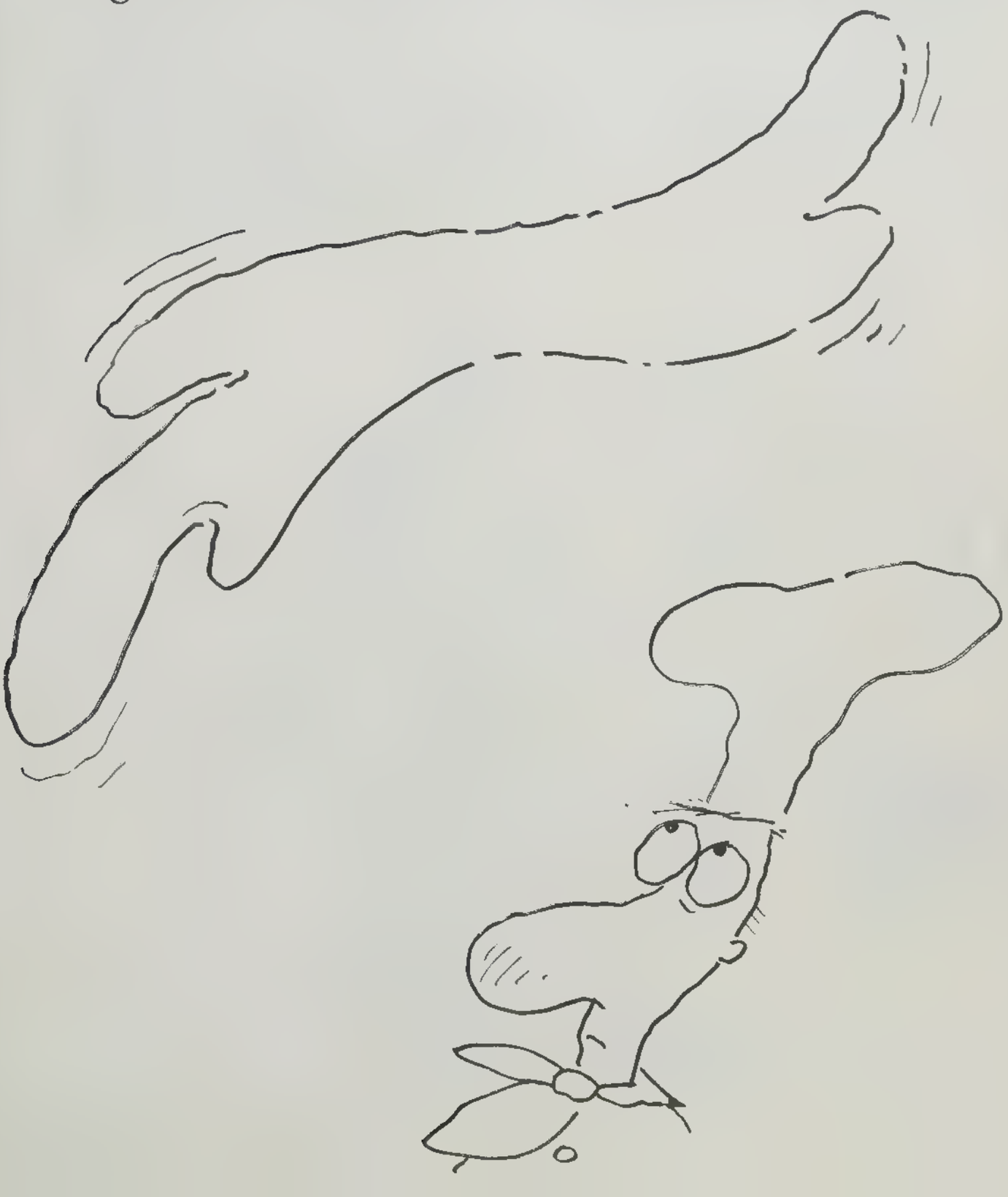


What is more especially one's own than a large wet booger?

— **Robert Louis Stevenson**

THE PIZZA BOOGER

One of the more dramatic of a whole series of wet stretch-sticky type boogers. This one – truly revolting when the booger happens to be the color of Mozzarella cheese, which fortunately is not often – follows the withdrawing finger from the nose to as much as a foot or more away before it snaps and hangs dangling from either nose or finger, or both. Further description of this booger would simply be too gross.



THE ELASTIC BOOGER

This booger, a stretch type, is firmly attached to the wall of the nasal cavity, and while at the start it yields easily enough to the searching finger, it invariably snaps back into the nostril with a force causing the nose picker's head to recoil. This recoil reaction, of course, may actually be as much from alarm or chagrin on the part of the nose picker as from the impact of the returning booger.

THE GREAT WET BOOGER

It is probably not every nose picker who has had the unforgettable experience of withdrawing The Great Wet Booger from within his or her nasal cavity, a cavern-like cavity, it turns out to be, the full extent of which, until that very moment, has neither been known or imagined by the nose picker. For The Great Wet Booger reaches back into recesses deep within the skull, and as it is drawn forth it seems slowly to uncoil from around the very brain itself, producing a sensation bordering, with some, on the ecstatic. Others have likened it to a religious experience. The nose picker who has not yet encountered The Great Wet Booger has something indeed to look forward to. This one is really a dilly.

THE SURPRISE BOOGER

The Surprise Booger seems nothing at the start, but much to the nose picker's immediate surprise this booger draws after it a seemingly endless chain of boogers, similar to the bright colored handkerchiefs a magician draws from his sleeve or his hat, and attracting about the same kind of attention, if the nose picker happens to be doing this bit in a crowd. This is always one of the more messy and embarrassing boogers, even when alone.

THE T.V. BOOGER

This booger can be either wet or dry, although more often than not it is on the wet side. As the name implies, it is brought forth by a person or persons watching television. With large families, more than one such booger may visibly be present at any given time, left forgotten on thumb or forefinger, where it remains, like a small extra eye, seemingly directed toward the higher drama of the moment occurring on the screen. Such boogers generally fall to the floor in time of their own accord, or appear later on the undersides of T.V. trays.

If one would remain a lady or gentleman, one must thoroughly wash one's hands after picking one's nose.

Queen Victoria

THE CHICKEN TURD BOOGER

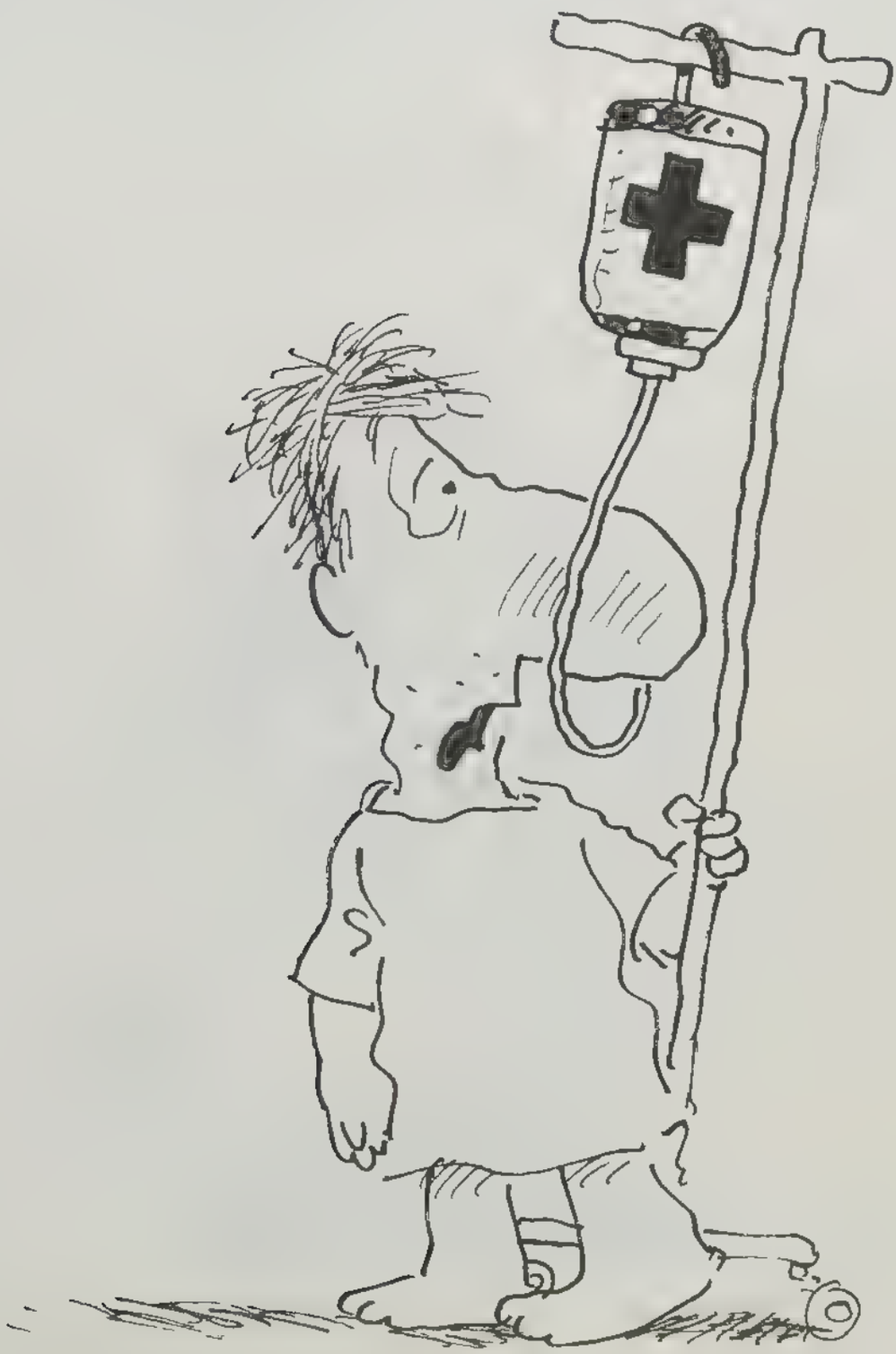
Has just the right admixture of yellow, black and white stuff in it to resemble perfectly a chicken turd.

THE SKATER'S WALTZ BOOGER

This booger skates around inside the narrow confines of a nostril as though in a great arena; it sweeps and glides, does figure eights and pirouettes; quite probably this is the most elusive of all boogers, wet or dry. It is called The Skater's Waltz Booger because there actually seems a kind of rhythm to its movements, as though the damn glob of snot had a mind of its own. Which puts one in mind of the fellow who asked why his nose kept whistling and the other fellow said maybe it didn't know the words?

THE OH MY GOD BOOGER

This is a very bloody booger. *Now I have gone too far*, thinks the nose picker, even as he draws the bloody booger forth. In grim surmise, he stares at the thing – booger, but somehow more than booger – slowly sliding off the end of the offending finger. "Oh my god," says the nose picker. That is why it is called The Oh My God Booger. It is one of the more disgusting boogers every time.



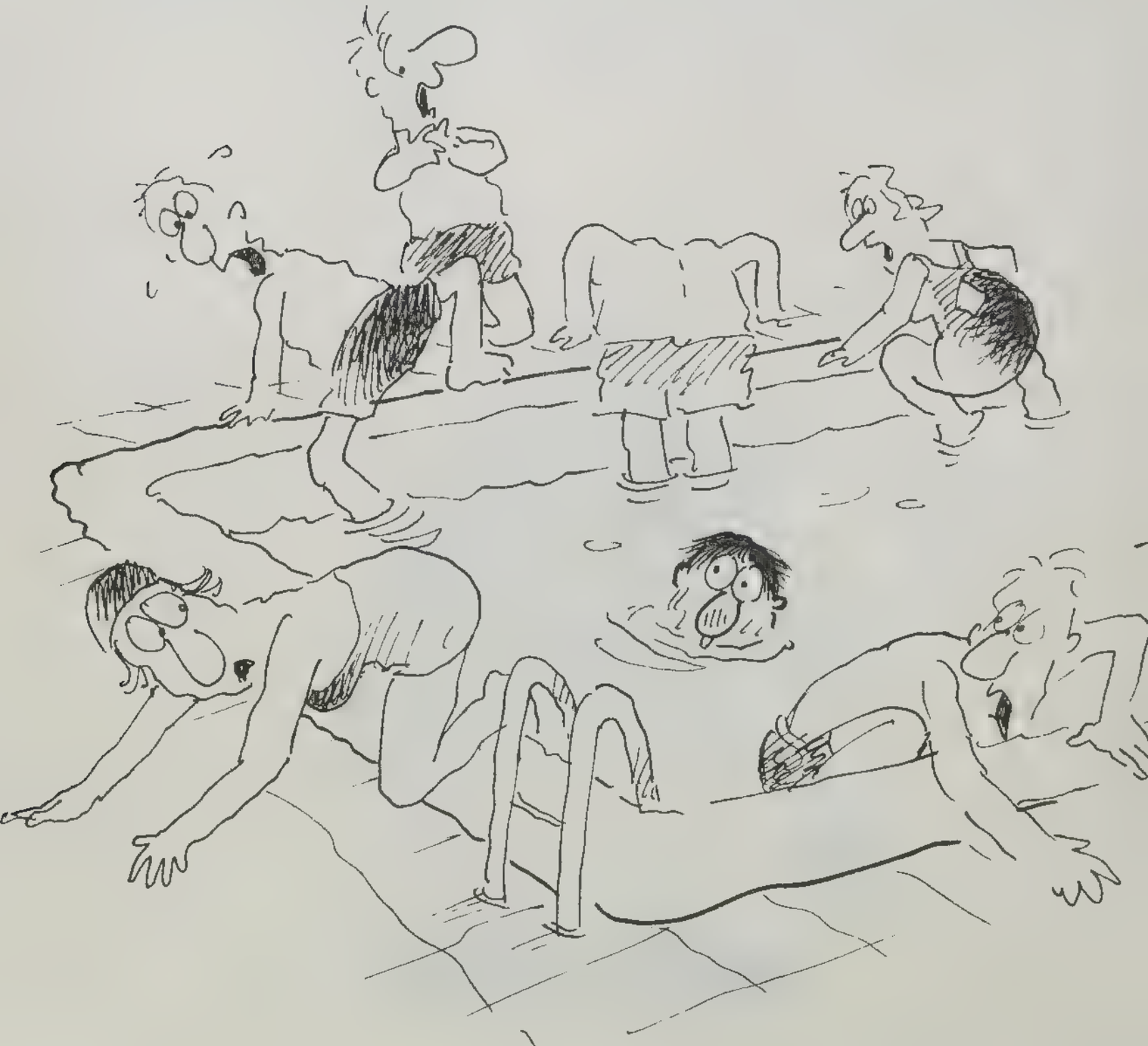
Interestingly enough, none of the world's great religious leaders had anything to say about picking one's nose, or the proper way to dispose of wet boogers.

THE GREAT YELLOW STRIPE

Though usually associated with runny-nosed kids, The Great Yellow Stripe can be found on the sleeves of adult sufferers too. Actually more than a booger, "The Stripe" is described by a combination of color, a hint of consistency and result of the removal method. It is indigenous to the northern climate as it requires the wearing of a long sleeve. Generation of The Great Yellow Stripe in warm climates is forbidden by the Geneva Convention.

THE SWIMMER'S BOOGER

Clearly, this is a booger we could well do without. But you cannot blame the swimmer too much, as it is simply something that goes with the sport. The swimmer merely happens to squeeze his nose and out pops the booger, usually a large one. Unfortunately it usually ends up in the pool.



THE OATMEAL BOOGER

Generally a morning booger, in large part moist, but containing some small amount of dried matter. It is thus often surprisingly similar in size, shape and texture to a glob of the breakfast oatmeal one may be ingesting at the time.

THE SNOW WHITE BOOGER

Sometimes called the Princess Booger, this is strictly a lady's booger known not for the pristine quality of the booger – it's usually a pretty ordinary wet sort of booger – but from the lovely unlikely nostril from which the booger was withdrawn, the lady being to all appearance a creature of a higher order. To her credit, she will view the booger with utter disbelief and distaste, as though it was something that had been dropped there from on high, possibly by a bird.

THE ERASER BOOGER

This is another kid's booger – usually a boy's – and a pretty ridiculous one. The kid – usually in school – fishes for the booger with the eraser on the end of his pencil. If he is successful, he plays with the booger for a while and then tries to use it, instead, as his eraser, which is really ridiculous.

THE PERFECT BOOGER

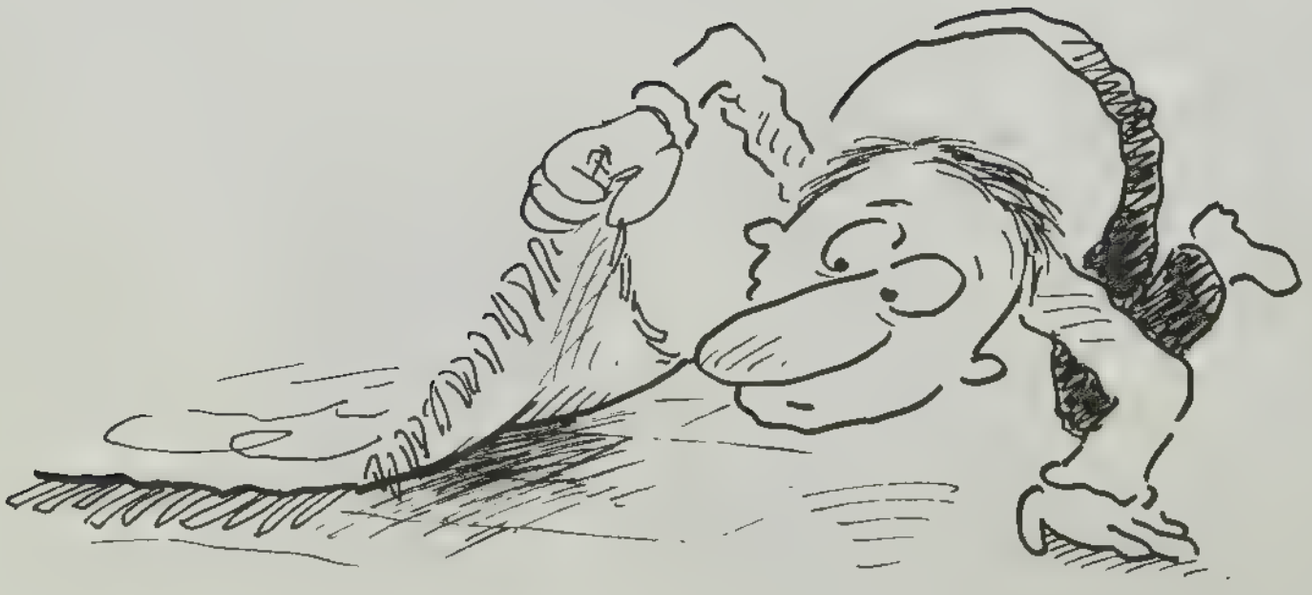
Here indeed is perfection to be found – as with beauty – only in the beholder's eye, and in this case, only if the booger's beholder is as well its possessor. To all others it must appear as only an uncommonly large green, wet and stangely round ball of mucus.

THE SNAIL BOOGER

The Snail Booger – a very wet booger – leaves a disgusting trail of slimy matter as it is drawn from the nostril, which offensive residue remains on the upper lip or mustache long after the loathsome bugger itself has been disposed of. The sight of the Snail Booger track on the face of an adult can turn the stomach of people who usually merely turn pale at the sight of a child with a green-running nose.

THE DISAPPEARING BOOGER

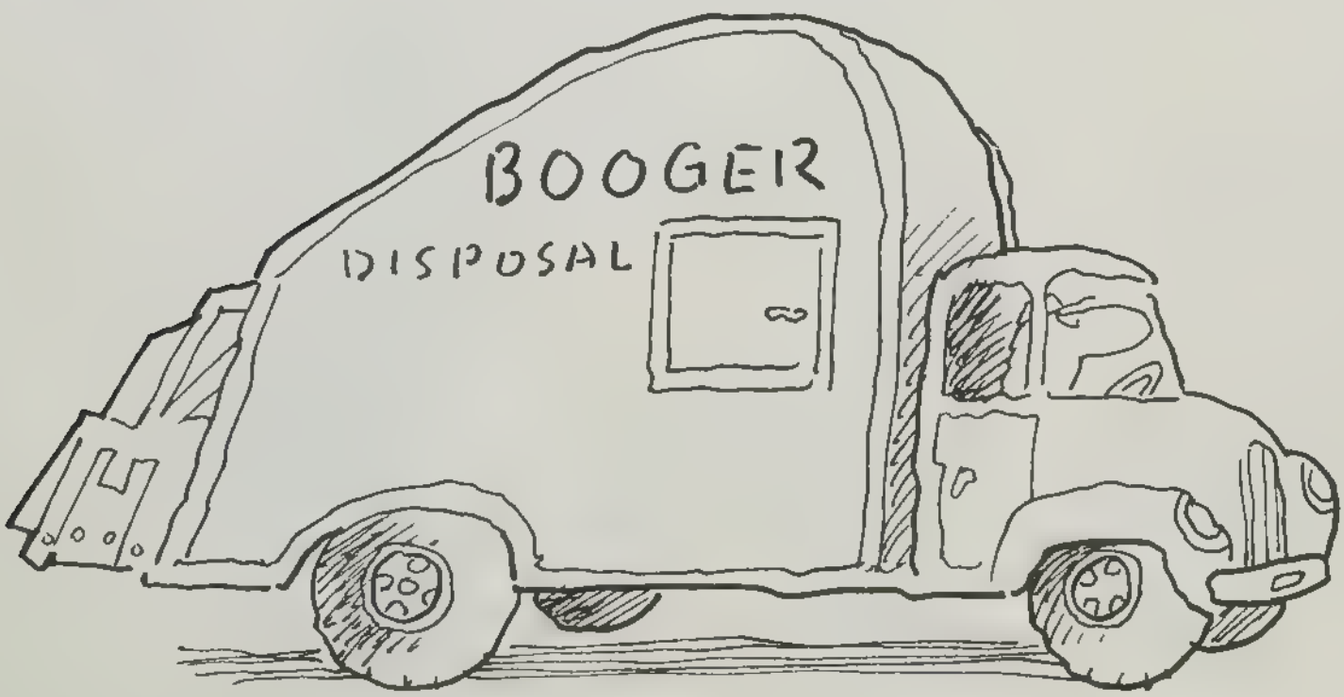
A wet booger that can really bug the nose picker; he does not know if the booger has slid back into his nose or dropped off his finger onto his clothes or is sitting on his upper lip or is in his hair or by his ear; or where the hell did the thing go anyhow, he wonders. And the worst part of The Disappearing Booger is that more often than not the nose picker never finds out for sure what *did* happen to the thing, not unless someone finally says to him, "Jesus, what is that thing up by your ear that looks like snot?" Then he knows what happened to it all right.



CONCLUSION: DISPOSAL OF BOOGERS

There is no pleasure, where the fruit is forbidden, but that has its price which must in time be paid. And how true this is of the pleasures of nose picking, if briefly one might be allowed to think of the booger as a forbidden fruit.
At last the booger . . . and then . . .
. . . the question arises, looms suddenly large, urgent, real; how the hell do I get rid of this thing?
The matter of disposal; that is the booger price, and it can be dear.

For instance: there sits the booger at the end of the well-dressed gentleman's finger, the index finger of the right hand. He observes it with satisfaction, then looks modestly away and does something meant to be discreet with his hand. He looks. The booger is gone. But not quite. It has now prominently appeared, he discovers, on the first knuckle of the second finger of his left hand. He shakes his left hand as though pointing at something on the floor. This moves the booger to the second knuckle of the middle finger. The gesture also has attracted considerable attention.



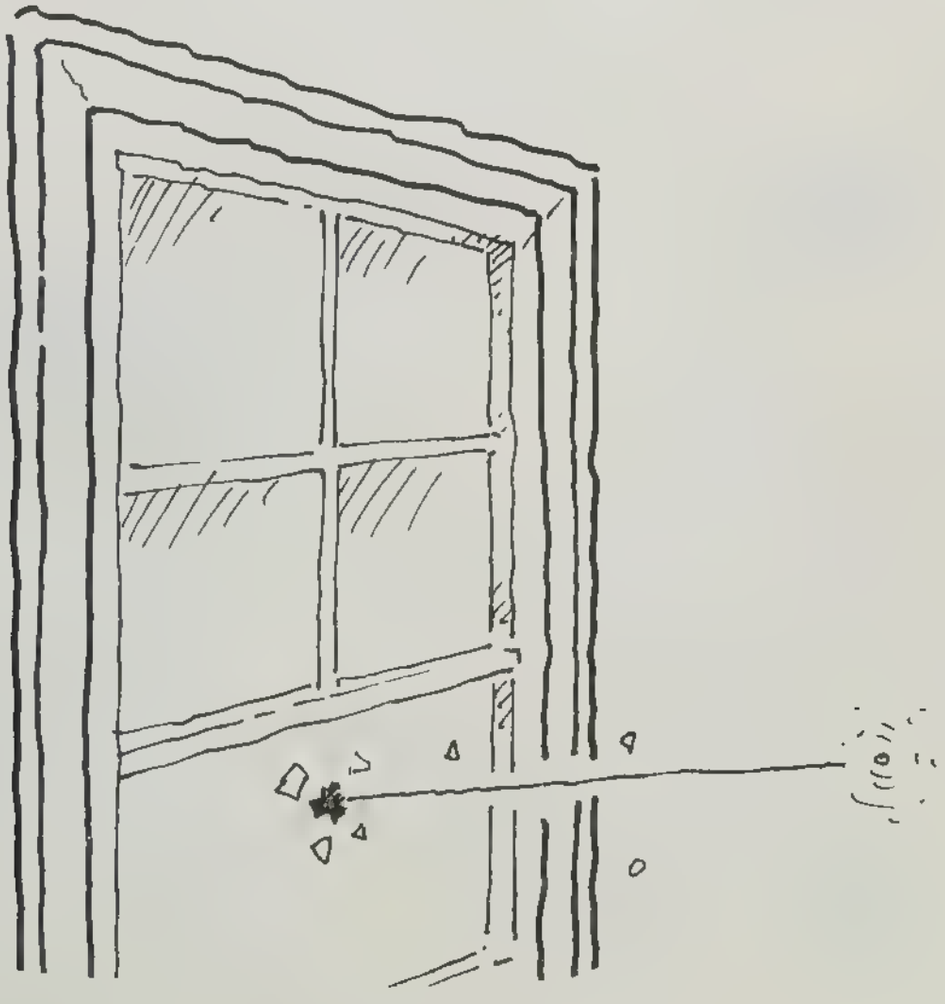
The man puts his hand in his pocket. Later he carefully withdraws the hand and finds the booger is gone. But it's still his booger, and he knows it. In time, however, having forgotten about it, he goes into that same pocket for some change. The store clerk stares with disgust at the booger, which now appears neatly centered on the ball of his thumb. He puts hand and booger back in his pocket. He hopes the booger will come out in the wash. It may or it may not.

There are various standard techniques used by all nose pickers in their efforts to achieve the successful disposal of a booger. Most of these techniques or methods work badly or not at all. Still, people keep trying them.

Types of Booger Disposal Techniques

THE FLINGER.

This is probably the boldest and generally the most consistently successful of all booger disposal methods. The Flinger is executed by positioning the booger on the tip of the thumb, drawing a finger back, and then flicking the finger sharply forward. This will usually do the trick. But while it gets rid of the booger, this method has its disadvantages, chief among them being that one never knows for sure where the booger is going to land. It may be in the center of a picture window, on a photograph of your host's kids, or a bystander's forehead. Someone or something usually gets hit.



THE ONE NOSTRIL PUSHER

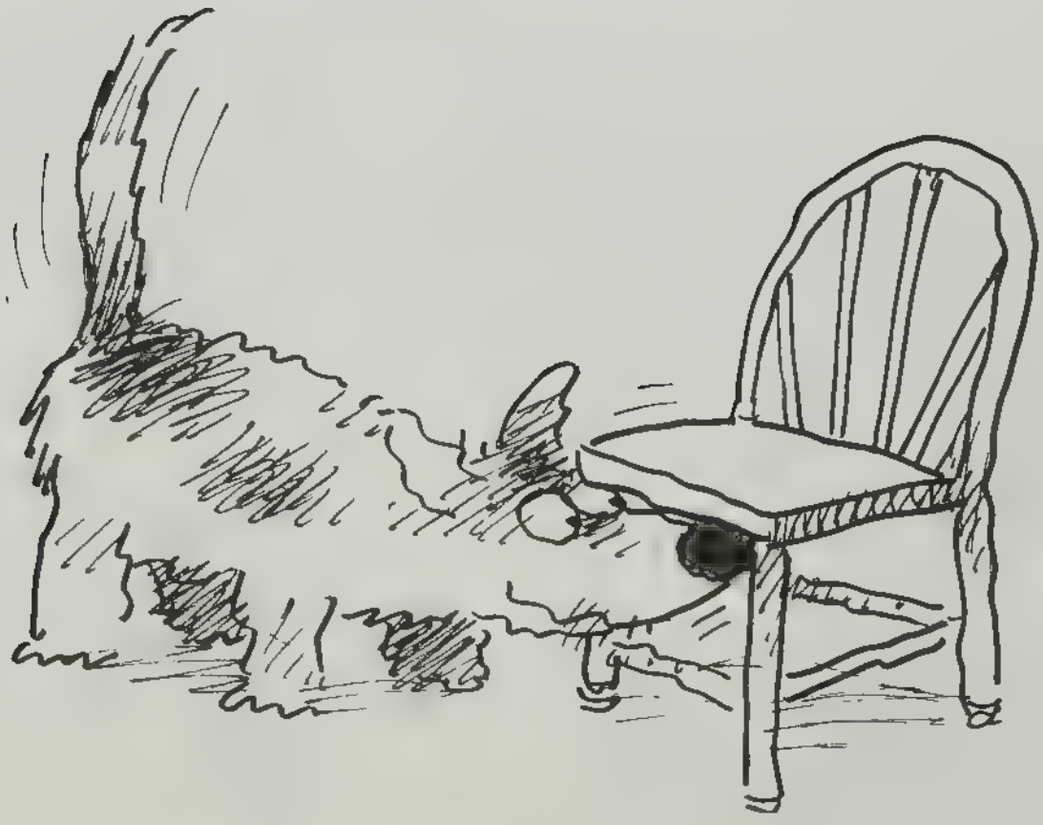
If properly executed the One Nostril Pusher is as simple and foolproof a disposal technique as imaginable. One finger closes a nostril; a quick turn of the head coupled with a hard blow and gonzo. Used mainly by outdoors people who have a good sense of wind direction.

THE SNAPPER

Similar to The Flinger, but in this method the action is all in the wrist. Although experienced nose pickers should know better, this method is often employed with a particularly sticky booger and usually doesn't work. It begins, in general practice, with a weak, half-hearted wrist snap, hardly adequate to dislodge a bread crumb. Repeated and stronger efforts are made, until in some instances the hand is being flailed about as though one or more of the fingers was on fire. While this will invariably attract attention, it seldom shakes off a really sticky booger.

THE WIPE OFF

Kids are fond of this method, also. The most common places to dispose of wiped off boogers is under the edges of chairs and tables, and of course, under the bed. In some homes, where there are many nose picking kids, there can be an accumulation of boogers on the undersides of various pieces of furniture that gives the appearance of something growing there, like a kind of fungus, visible from clear across a room. These accumulations are sometimes found to be of interest to the family dog, who supposes it must be something good to eat, and gets hell for chewing on the furniture.



THE TRANSFER

The Transfer differs from the Wipe Off in that the act of disposing of the booger is made to seem an inadvertance, an accident. This is a favorite with your more sophisticated nose picker. He or she pretends the booger does not exist. They simply go ahead and open a door or push an elevator button or release a window shade, and behind them is left the booger, on door knob, elevator button or window shade, as the case may be. These are the sort of people who park in the areas reserved for the handicapped. They do other cruddy things, as well.

THE DROP

This is probably the most unsuccessful of all methods of disposing of a booger. But there are those who will try it. They are optimists to the core. Carefully the booger is worked into a nicely rounded booger form, then carefully grasped between thumb and finger, and . . . released. It is supposed to fall to the floor like a lead sinker. It almost never does. It hangs on to thumb or finger like a wart. People such as this, though, will try it again and again. They are without shame. It is pitiful.

THE LAST RESORT

The least popular disposal method of all, and for good reason. With the Last Resort method – a deperate move – one simply hands the booger to someone else. They may not want it, but once they've got it, it's their booger and how they get rid of it is up to them.
This, of course, is a rotten thing to do.
But so is picking your nose.

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2101 - Peter Pecker's Guide To The Male Organ. A detailed analysis of the types of men who own Wee Wees, Members, Weenies, Dinks, Schlongs, No Nos, Tools, Wangs, and many others. Everyone is covered, from accountants to taxi drivers.

2102 - You Know You're Over 50 When... You add "God willing" to the end of most of your statements and you don't care where your wife goes when she goes out, as long as you don't have to go with her. A great 50 year old birthday gift.

2109 - The Get Well Book. Cheer up sick folks with this book that teaches them how to gain sympathy, what the doctor really means and how to cope with phones, kids, germs and critters that make you sick.

2121 - More Dirty Crosswords. This latest edition of dirty crosswords will test your analytical powers even further as you struggle to improve your vocabulary.

2123 - You Know You're Over 60 When... You're 60 when you start straddling two road lanes, you start looking forward to dull evenings at home, and you can't remember when prunes and figs weren't a regular part of your diet.

2126 - After All These Years. An Anniversary Book. Gives all the pluses and problems of marriage from learning to sleep without pillows or blanket to having someone around who can find all the really itchy spots on your back.

2127 - Your Golf Game Is In Big Trouble When... Your practice rounds are all in the bar and you've tried out 30 putters and none of them work and you play whole rounds without once hitting the fairway.

2129 - Fun In The John. More fun than you ever dreamed possible. Crosswords, Bathroom Lists, Word Searches, Mystery Games, John Horoscopes, Connect The Dots, Mazes, and Much More.

2130 - How To Tell If It Was Good. It was good if your partner can't stop repeating your name. It was bad if your partner can't remember your name. It was good if your partner wrote you poetry. It was bad if your partner wrote you a prescription.

2131 - The Fart Book. Farts are divided into two groups. 1. Your farts. 2. Somebody else's fart. This book lists them all, the Little Girls Don't Fart Fart, The Dog Did It Fart, the S'cuse me Fart and many more.

2136 - The Shit List - The list is quite extensive and describes the versatile use of this clever word. There is, for example, "chicken shit" and "give a shit" and "shoot the shit". A very funny book, noshit.

2142 - It's Nifty To Be 50. A new birthday book for women. It's Nifty to Be 50 when the kids are old enough to help willingly, and you can't be talked into activities you don't like in weather you hate.

2144 - Women Make Better Bosses Because... They understand when your child is sick, don't look down your dress and they'll hire cute guys for the office.

2149 - Working Mothers Don't Need Vacations and Other Myths. Of course, they have self-cleaning bathrooms, husbands who help and understanding bosses.

2152 - True Love Is... Keeping each other's secrets, sharing desserts and tolerating each other's pets.

2153 - Fart Part II. This sequel covers the dreaded "Thank God I'm Alone Fart", the insidious "SBD Fart" and the awe-inspiring "Sonic Boom Fart".

2156 - Pumping Tush. For all you exercise fanatics. Bridget explains locker room smells and gives suggestions for avoiding gasps in community showers.

2162 - The Booger Book. All boogers can be divided into two groups: 1) dry boogers; 2) wet boogers. This book covers them all, from the swimmer's booger to types of booger disposal techniques.

2165 - The Professional Homemaker Is...A Plumber, a Veterinary Assistant, a TV Analyst, a Domestic Management Specialist & many other things.

2166 - You've Survived Catholic School When... You can enter a phone booth without feeling you should begin confessing and you don't shudder when someone hands you a ruler.

2167 - The Official Chinese Sex Manual. An hour later you're horny again. Covers everything from petting below the pigtail to achieving orgasm with your chopsticks.

2168 - You Know You're A Year Older When... You no longer eat all the dessert just because it's there and you can no longer easily sleep till noon.

2169 - The Curse. Tasteful, sensitive, very funny and sympathetic. It's about a subject that plagues women each month.

2170 - If Your Birthday Falls On A Workday. Everything from how to get the day off to eating ice cream without a spoon.

2171 - Compliments To The Cook. "Great cooks never serve vegetables people can't spell" and "always have plausible excuses and sincere apologies ready."

2172 - The Perfect Lover. Turns into a pizza at 3 a.m., holds a Ph.D. in back rubbing & gets into bed first on cold nights just so you'll have warm sheets.

2173 - The Burp Book. Includes the difference between a burp and a belch; the skinny kid burp, the silent burp, the complimentary belch and many more.

2174 - Keep Fit With Drink. The Alcorobic way to build a better body. Walking the Line, the Sit-up, the Heave and more.

2175 - Asses. The complete directory of asses of all kinds from the Male Biker's Buns to the Oh Wow! Ass.

2176 - The First Time. From "how to tell if your date is thinking about sex" to "five great excuses for leaving in the middle of the night."

2177 - You're Over The Hill When... No one cares anymore about what you did in high school, and you see your old cereal bowl in an antique shop.

2178 - The Pregnant Father. The Pregnant Father's chief duty during delivery is to hold a little pan while his wife throws up into it...and much more!

2179 - Irish Sex Manual. Great Irish lovers share their favorite positions. Learn why Irish women are better and what Irish men love about sex.

2180 - Italian Sex Manual. Covers everything from picking up Italian men to great Italian sex games and why Italian men are better lovers.

2181 - Jewish Sex Manual. Includes detailed information about what Jewish women love about sex, how to pick up Jewish men and great Jewish blind dates.

2182 - Life Is Too Short To Date Ugly Men. Life is too short to forgo exotic vacations or never to cheat on your diet!

2183 - 50 Is Fine If You Look 39... And you can eat a hot fudge sundae without worrying about breaking out. Plus many more!

2184 - 60 Is Fine If You Look 39... And you can buy the car you want without worrying over whether it will hold ten kids, musical instruments and dogs. And more!

2186 - 40 Is Fine If You Look 29... And you're still the same old tiger on the road, and they start to trust you at banks and you can still party with the best of them. For MEN.

2187 - Big Busted Women Have More Fun... Big busted women somehow seem more motherly, get the most out of stretch fabric and always know where to look for a lost earring.

2188 - Great Sex For Busy Couples... Explains how to find the time, the place and the desire when two careers keep the couple running.

2189 - You're Aged To Perfection When... You stop worrying about your weight and you're smart enough to save out-of-style clothing until it becomes fashionable again.

2190 - Teddy Bears Are Better Than Men Because... They don't hog the whole bed and they invariably understand when you have a headache.

2191 - Your Skiing's Going Downhill When... Ski shops refuse to tune your skis and you start thinking about the hot tub before your first run.

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